

8 December 2004

Securities and Exchange Commission
Office of International Corporate Finance
450 Fifth Street N.W.
Washington DC 20549
United States of America

PL

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: WOODSIDE PETROLEUM LTD. - EXEMPTION FILE NO. 82.2280

In accordance with Rule 12g 3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, we enclose a copy of the following Stock Exchange Releases which has/have recently been filed with the Australian Stock Exchange ("ASX") in relation to:

 Mauritania Offshore Drilling Update, lodged with the Australian Stock Exchange on 7 December 2004.

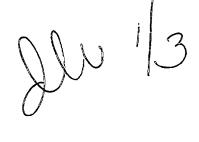
It would be greatly appreciated if you could return by fax (+61 8 9214 2728) a copy of this letter as proof of receipt.

Yours faithfully WOODSIDE PETROLEUM LTD.

Rebecca Sims Compliance Officer PROCESSED

JAN 04 2005

THOMSON FINANCIAL



ASX ANNOUNCEMENT

(ASX: WPL)

Tuesday, 7 December 2004 10:00am (WST)





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MAURITANIA OFFSHORE DRILLING UPDATE

Woodside Mauritania Pty Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Woodside Petroleum Ltd., reports the following activity offshore Mauritania since the last report issued on 30 November 2004.

PSC-B, Block 4 Merou-1, Tiof-3 ST2, Tiof-5 and Chinquetti Development wells

Merou-1 Exploration well

The Merou-1 exploration well was plugged and abandoned by the "Stena Tay" drill rig on 1 December 2004. The "Stena Tay" then moved to the Tiof-5 location.

Tiof-3 ST2 Appraisal well

The Tiof-3 ST2 well was suspended as a potential future development well by the "West Navigator" drill ship on 3 December 2004. The "West Navigator" then moved to the Chinguetti Field.

Tiof-5 Appraisal well

The Tiof-5 appraisal well was spudded by the "Stena Tay" drill rig on 3 December 2004 in 993 metres of water. The $17\frac{1}{2}$ inch hole was drilled to a depth of 2,159 metres where the $13\frac{3}{8}$ inch casing was set. At midnight on 6 December 2004 the rig was preparing to drill ahead to the target interval.

Chinquetti Development wells

The "West Navigator" drill ship resumed operations on Chinguetti Development wells on 3 December 2004. Woodside does not plan to issue further announcements regarding operations on Chinguetti development wells but will make additional announcements if required to comply with its continuous disclosure obligations under the ASX Listing Rules.

All reported drilling depths are referenced to the rig rotary table and all times are Universal Time (UTC) (Mauritanian time).

The locations of the Chinguetti Oil Field, the Tiof and Banda discoveries and exploration wells are shown on the attached map.